

APPLICANT(S): LEVIT, Guy et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/448,180
FILED: November 24, 1999

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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 15 and 23-46 are pending in the application. Claims 25-36 and 38-46 have been objected to. Claims 15, 23, 24 and 37 have been rejected. Claims 25 and 38 have been amended.

Claims 15, 23, 24 and 37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 25-36 and 38-46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 25 and 38 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 26-36 and 39-46 depend from, directly or indirectly, claims 25 and 38 respectively, therefore including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claims 25-36 and 38-46.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15, 23-24 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Brilla et al. (US 6,389,276). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow. Claims 15, 23-24 and 37 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of cancelled claims 15, 23-24 and 37.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 15, 23-24 and 37.

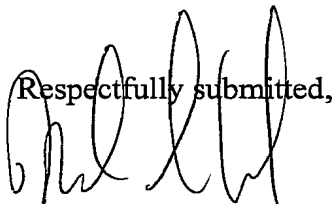
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: January 8, 2004

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